



Southern Regional Office (SRO)
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701

**DRAFT Minutes of the
Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF)
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 17th Meeting**

October 22, 2003, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Nanini Library, 7300 N. Shannon Road, Tucson, Arizona

W-10000.6.6.2

CAB Members Present: Susan Bjerke, Gary Burchard, James Eigel, Terri Hutts, Chris North, Bob Ornelas, Al Pesqueira, Eleanor Towne

CAB Members Absent: Fran LaSala, Gary Pitman

ADEQ Staff Present: Michael Romero, Project Manager; Melissa Hayes, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Dave Eaker, Glenna Rader

The meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Al Pesqueira, CAB co-chair, welcomed members and conducted introductions. Each of the CAB members then briefly introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes from 8/06/03

Terri Hutts complimented Melissa Hayes on the minutes for the 8/6/03 CAB meeting, and said that she appreciated Mike Block's tour of the South Shannon well and presentation at the CAB meeting. Terri Hutts motioned to approve the minutes from 8/6/03; Ellie Towne seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. Al Pesqueira refrained from voting, since he was not present at the last meeting.

3. Site Investigation Update/Q&A – Michael Romero, ADEQ

--Brief Review of WQARF Remedy Selection Process

Michael Romero explained that site work slowed for a while because the state contract for the consultants changed. He said that ADEQ wants to perform an investigation at the former AMRI Oil facility (Wrecksperts property). He sent a letter to the property owner, requesting access to the property. The property owner requested a workplan from ADEQ, and is currently looking at the information. Mike Fulton, ADEQ Superfund Programs Unit Supervisor, is in contact with the property owner. The workplan describes the investigative work proposed for Wrecksperts, and at Western Trailer Park and Western Stucco.

The work at Western Trailer Park and Western Stucco has already been done, and ADEQ wants to do a small-scale soil removal on a portion of the vacant lot in the southeast corner of Western Trailer Park. However, ADEQ wants to investigate the Wrecksperts property before performing a soil removal action. The work proposed to be done on the Wrecksperts property includes a passive soil gas survey, a grid pattern for shallow soil samples and three soil borings in the area of the former oil trench, to assess what contaminants might be in the soil and to get groundwater samples. The soil sampling for lead would be done in phases, first in the northeast corner of the property, and would be expanded if more information is needed. The soil borings on the Wrecksperts property would be drilled to the water table. If contamination is found at the water table, there's the potential that the property could be a source of the contamination. If it is found that an excavation is needed, the area would be combined with the soil removal at Western Trailer Park.

Michael Romero discussed the depths of the current wells in the area. It is known that there is contamination in the shallow depth, some of which is believed to come from the landfill and the former E.C. Winter property. Gary Burchard felt that it is critical to hone in on where the contamination shifts from the shallow to middle depth. Michael Romero said that ADEQ wants to install a companion well to the W-24 well, possibly on the Wrecksperts or Western Trailer Park properties. The well would be deeper, around 200 feet below ground surface. Michael Romero said that the budget didn't provide for the work at Wrecksperts, but other site work would be sacrificed to do it, which could delay completion of the Remedial Investigation.

Michael Romero said that ADEQ would most likely implement a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system, as part of the early response action at the former E.C. Winter property. Preliminarily, it looks like a mobile home should be kept off the back part of the property, then SVE wells can be turned on.

He said that it is not known at exactly what depth the contamination is coming in at the South Shannon well. He said that the question is at what point the contamination goes deeper. He said that ADEQ will be assessing the possibility of doing groundwater containment. ADEQ wants to install a well between the South Shannon well and Rillito Creek, and one to the east, to bound the plume.

He said that water quality will be measured biannually or quarterly, and water levels quarterly. Gary Burchard said that Metro Water is looking to put a transducer on the South Shannon well. Michael Romero said that there is also equipment on the well, which correlates water level fluctuations with the equipment turning on. Gary Burchard said that Metro Water wants to perform an aquifer test, and could work with ADEQ on it. The Deconcini well would be taken out of production this year for maintenance, so its pumping influence on the South Shannon well will be stopped.

Michael Romero said that the completion of the remaining site work should be enough to finish the Remedial Investigation (RI) for the two sites. The RI for the two sites will be combined, and the two sites will most likely become one site.

He said that the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), with WQARF funding, is doing detailed well inventories of all WQARF sites in Tucson. ADWR developed a list of all the wells in the area, which he helped shorten for these two WQARF sites.

He explained the WQARF Remedy Selection process, and said that the RI takes the longest to complete, which is the stage where the two WQARF sites are now. The goal is to complete the work that will help develop a complete assessment, and to draft the RI report this fiscal year. He said that ADEQ is currently doing work on the land and water use study, and has already contacted the water providers for input. After the RI is completed, ADEQ will release the draft RI report, with a public comment period, then will develop remedial objectives, which are different ways to clean up the contamination. Some options for remedial objectives are already being developed in the early response actions that are taking place at the sites. Once all comments are in, the final RI report and feasibility study will be done. Melissa Hayes said that there will be public meetings and public comment periods, in which the CAB will be involved. She said that the CAB can submit comments individually or as a CAB, and guidance will be provided.

4. CAB Discussion of Letter Regarding Access to Wrecksperts Property

CAB members discussed whether the CAB should be involved by writing a letter, since the request for access has already started. They were concerned that the property owner may not respond, and the process to get access would stall. They felt that it is important to set deadlines when communicating with the property owner. Michael Romero said that the property owner wanted to know what would be done on the property, so he developed a work plan and sent it to him, and he is currently looking over it. He said that progress is being made through the conversations with the property owner. He also said that the letter that was sent to the property owner did explain that the Attorney General's Office could become involved in getting access.

The CAB discussed sending a letter to the property owner, explaining the CAB and inviting him to attend a meeting. The CAB said that they do not want to make him feel that he's being ganged up on, or obligated to do something because of the CAB. They said that sending a letter could have a positive or a negative effect. Gary Burchard said that until the work is done, ADEQ could lose the will to press forward in getting access. He felt that the CAB should send the letter of support to ADEQ, and also copy the Attorney General's Office.

Al Pesqueira said that Northwest Fire has the authority to enter a property to do an inspection to ensure that it complies with codes; he attempted to gain access to do an inspection, but was denied. CAB members decided to use a soft approach and write a positive letter. They felt that by inviting the property owner to a meeting, it would show that there is public support of the investigation of the property, and the property owner could learn about the WQARF process.

Melissa Hayes read the proposed text from the last meeting of the CAB letter to the property owner, which was in the minutes from the last meeting. The CAB decided to write two letters; one to the property owner, inviting him to a CAB meeting, and the other to ADEQ (with the property owners, WQARF Advisory Board and Attorney General's Office copied), saying that the CAB supports ADEQ's efforts to gain access.

Melissa Hayes said that the property owners live in another state. Michael Romero said that there is not supposed to be anyone living on the Wrecksperts property, but there's an RV there that looks occupied.

Melissa Hayes said that she will send the draft text of the letter to ADEQ, taken directly from the meeting tape, to the co-chairs to use for the letter. CAB members asked her to change the meeting date on the letter and add the Attorney General's Office address.

Terri Hutts motioned to write a separate letter to the property owner; Suzy Bjerke seconded the motion. The letter would explain the CAB, and that the CAB discusses things that involve the owners, and would invite them to join the meeting. The letter would encourage the owner to be involved in the CAB process, let them know that there is a call to the public during CAB meetings if they wish to make any statements, and explain that the meetings are open to the public. The CAB decided to copy Mike Fulton and Michael Romero. Melissa Hayes will send the information to the co-chairs to draft.

5. Call to the Public

An audience member recommended that the CAB use caution in inviting the Wrecksperts property owner to a future CAB meeting because of experiences related to threats from him in the past. Melissa Hayes told the CAB members that security procedures were in place, in the case of any threatening incidences during a CAB meeting.

6. CAB Outreach Discussion

There were no items to discuss.

7. Other Administrative Business

Melissa Hayes said that she and Michael Romero gave an update on the WQARF Sites at the recent Palmdale Area Neighborhood Watch meeting, and had a booth at this year's Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) event. Ellie Towne asked them to participate in these events. Melissa Hayes said that she copied a 2004 calendar for CAB members' use. She also congratulated the CAB on meeting for three years, and thanked them for their participation.

8. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next CAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2004 at the Nanini Library, large meeting room, 7300 N. Shannon Rd., Tucson, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call Melissa Hayes, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, for meeting details and proposed agenda. The CAB discussed the agenda for the next meeting. Proposed agenda items include an update on the request for access to the Wrecksperts property, and discussion of the CAB letter to the Wrecksperts property owner. Nominations of co-chairs for the next term will also take place.

9. Adjournment

Terri Hutts motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ellie Towne seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape, or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.